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For Immediate Release



Judge Joan Byer

Jefferson County Circuit Judge Joan Byer elected president of National Truancy Prevention Association

FRANKFORT, Ky., May 24, 2005 — Jefferson County Circuit Judge Joan L. Byer was elected president of the National Truancy Prevention Association by its board of directors at their annual meeting in April. She will serve a two-year term. Judge Byer previously served as NTPA's first vice president and is a founding member of the association, which was created in 2002.

Judge Byer serves the Family Division of Jefferson Circuit Court. She is widely recognized for developing and implementing one of the first and most successful truancy court diversion models in the United States. Her concept has been replicated successfully in many communities throughout the country. In 2001, her program received the annual Innovation in Literacy Services Award from the American Bar Association Literacy and the Courts Project. She is a frequently requested speaker and trainer at national and local conferences that focus on school attendance and truancy.

"As Family Court judge, I work with parents and children who are often negatively affected by poor school attendance and truancy," said Judge Byer following her election. "I look forward to working with my fellow board members as we help the new National Truancy Prevention Association become a major national voice on preventing truancy and reducing dropout rates."

Judge Byer began serving as a Family Court judge in Jefferson County in 1996. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California, San Diego and a juris doctor from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

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